

From: Van Sher
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/16/02 11:37am
Subject: microsoft settlement

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Attorney General John Ashcroft

U.S. Department of Justice

950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

I am writing this letter to express my concern over the prolongation of the settlement process in the Microsoft anti-trust case. The principal parties, with the trial court's endorsement, have hammered out a settlement agreement, which deals with the principal complaints of Microsoft's competitors and critics. The company has agreed to numerous concessions that should satisfy all but its most vengeful adversaries. It's time to put this matter to rest. It appears that doing the right thing is taking a back seat to politics, and that sacrifices money and resources that could help future generations.

Is this a paradox to the "AMERICAN DREAM"? The settlement will require Microsoft to radically alter its business and marketing practices. Windows systems will now be configured to not just to accept, but even to promote other companies' software. Microsoft will share information about certain internal Windows interfaces with competitors. Microsoft will abstain from its past anti-competitive practices and will not retaliate against software and hardware competitors. Microsoft has even agreed to submit itself to ongoing review by a new government oversight committee. Obviously, Microsoft has agreed to a lot!

Please give your approval to this agreement. Our now faltering economy does not need an economic giant like Microsoft hobbled by endless litigation.

Sincerely,

Van Sher

CC: Senator Rick Santorum